



## News Release

**For Immediate Release:**

April 8, 2010

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### **'Utah Stroke System' Launched**

(Salt Lake City, UT) - A systematic approach to improving treatment for stroke victims will soon be operational in Utah. The approach, developed and supported by the Utah Department of Health (UDOH), Utah Hospitals & Health Systems Association (UHA) and the Alliance for Cardiovascular Health in Utah, supports timely treatment for those experiencing a stroke.

“The goal of the Utah Stroke System is to provide quality, timely emergency care to every stroke patient in the state,” said Dr. Peter Taillac, Medical Director, UDOH Emergency Medical Services (EMS). “This is an important advancement because stroke is the number one cause of disability and the third leading cause of death in Utah,” he added.

The system uses national guidelines and focuses on protocols to improve coordination between EMS agencies and hospitals to improve stroke outcomes. As part of the system, hospitals may choose to be verified as Stroke Receiving Facilities. These hospitals must commit to following the national guidelines and protocol for patients arriving at the emergency department with symptoms of stroke. For their part, EMS agencies will be notified which hospitals are verified as stroke receiving facilities and will recommend that patients experiencing a stroke be transported to these facilities.

“By working together, we can make a significant difference in reducing stroke deaths and disability and improving stroke care for all Utahns,” said Joseph Krella, UHA President and CEO.

For a current list of verified stroke receiving hospitals, visit [www.health.utah.gov/ems/stroke](http://www.health.utah.gov/ems/stroke).

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*The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.*